

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the pending claims and add claims 27 to 29 as indicated in the following claim listing showing the status of all claims now in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for predicting a value of a target variable based on predictions of other variables, said method comprising:
- obtaining historical values for the target variable at each of plural time points;
 - obtaining ~~previously predicted values and currently~~ a first set of predicted values for each of plural predictor variables, the plural predictor variables being different from the target variable;
 - obtaining a second set of predicted values for each of the plural predictor variables, the second set of predicted values having been predicted subsequent to prediction of the first set of predicted values;
 - assigning values to parameters of a forecasting model to obtain a best fit of the previously first set of predicted values for the plural predictor variables to the historical values for the target variable; and
 - utilizing a computing device to generate a predicted value for the target variable from the ~~currently~~ second set of predicted values for at least a subset of the plural predictor variables using the forecasting model and the values assigned to the parameters of the forecasting model,
 - wherein the target variable is a measure of at least one of a value of an asset, a financial measure and an economic measure.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the ~~previously~~ first set of predicted values for the plural predictor variables comprise predictions of each of the predictor variables at each of the plural time points.
3. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein said assigning step is performed by using a statistical curve fitting technique.
4. (Original) A method according to Claim 3, wherein the statistical curve fitting technique comprises at least one of a stepwise linear regression technique and a nonlinear regression technique.
5. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein said assigning step is performed by using at least one of a neural network technique and a genetic algorithm technique.
6. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the parameters of the forecasting model comprise weighting coefficients.
7. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the target variable is a measure of a value of a financial asset.
8. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 1, further comprising a step of finding a difference between the predicted value for the target variable and a

second predicted value for the target variable which is predicted using a second technique that is different than said predicting step, so as to obtain an estimate of information that is specific to the target variable.

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 8, wherein the second technique is a combination forecast of the value of the target variable.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 8, further comprising a step of using the estimate of information that is specific to the target variable to predict an effect of ~~a same type of~~ said information on a second variable that is different than the target variable.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 1, further comprising a step of finding a difference between the predicted value of the target variable and an actual value realized for the target variable.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 11, further comprising a step of using the difference between the predicted value of the target variable and the actual value realized for the target variable to predict an effect of ~~a same type of~~ information on a second variable that is different than the target variable.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the ~~previously~~ first set of predicted values for the plural predictor variables comprise

predictions of each of the predictor variables at time points that are contemporaneous with the plural time points.

14. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the target variable is a measure of a value of an asset.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for predicting a value of a target variable based on predictions of other variables, said method comprising:

obtaining historical values for the target variable at each of plural time points;

C¹ obtaining ~~previously predicted values and currently~~ a first set of predicted values for each of plural predictor variables, the plural predictor variables being different from the target variable;

~~identifying a subset~~ obtaining a second set of predicted values for each of the plural predictor variables ~~whose previously, the second set of predicted values having been predicted subsequent to prediction of the first set of predicted values; and~~

identifying a subset of the plural predictor variables whose first set of predicted values provide a best fit to the historical values for the target variable, ~~by using stepwise linear regression; and~~

utilizing a computing device to generate a predicted value for the target variable from the ~~currently~~ second set of predicted values for the subset of the plural predictor variables identified in said identifying step ~~using weighting coefficients obtained from the stepwise linear regression.~~

wherein the target variable is a measure of at least one of a value of an asset, a financial measure and an economic measure.

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 15, wherein the ~~previously~~ first set of predicted values for the plural predictor variables comprise predictions of each of the predictor variables at time points that are contemporaneous with the plural time points.

17. (Original) A method according to Claim 15, wherein the target variable is a measure of a value of an asset.

C 18. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 15, further comprising a step of finding a difference between the predicted value for the target variable and a second predicted value for the target variable that has been predicted using a second technique that is different than said predicting step, so as to obtain an estimate of information that is specific to the target variable.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 18, wherein the second technique is a combination forecast of the value of the target variable.

20. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 18, further comprising a step of using the estimate of information that is specific to the target variable to predict

an effect of ~~a same type of~~ said information on a second variable that is different than the target variable.

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 15, further comprising a step of finding a difference between the predicted value for the target variable and an actual value realized for the target variable.

22. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 21, further comprising a step of using the difference between the predicted value for the target variable and the actual value realized for the target variable to predict an effect of ~~a same type~~ information on a second variable that is different than the target variable.

C' 23. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with computer-executable process steps for predicting a value of a target variable based on predictions of other variables, wherein said computer-executable process steps include steps to:

obtain historical values for the target variable at each of plural time points;

obtain ~~previously predicted values and currently~~ a first set of predicted values for each of plural predictor variables, the plural predictor variables being different from the target variable;

obtain a second set of predicted values for each of the plural predictor variables,
the second set of predicted values having been predicted subsequent to prediction of
the first set of predicted values;

assign values to parameters of a forecasting model to obtain a best fit of the previously first set of predicted values for the plural predictor variables to the historical values for the target variable; and

generate a predicted value for the target variable from the currently second set of predicted values for at least a subset of the plural predictor variables using the forecasting model and the values assigned to the parameters of the forecasting model,

wherein the target variable is a measure of at least one of a value of an asset, a financial measure and an economic measure.

C¹ 24. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for predicting a value of a target variable based on predictions of other variables, said apparatus comprising:

a processor for executing stored program instruction steps; and
a memory connected to the processor for storing the program instruction steps,
wherein the program instruction steps include steps to:

- (a) obtain historical values for the target variable at each of plural time points;
- (b) obtain ~~previously predicted values and currently~~ a first set of predicted values for each of plural predictor variables, the plural predictor variables being different from the target variable;
- (c) obtain a second set of predicted values for each of the plural predictor variables, the second set of predicted values having been predicted subsequent to prediction of the first set of predicted values;

(d) assign values to parameters of a forecasting model to obtain a best fit of the ~~previously~~ first set of predicted values for the plural predictor variables to the historical values for the target variable; and

~~(d)~~(e) generate a predicted value for the target variable from the ~~currently~~ second set of predicted values for at least a subset of the plural predictor variables using the forecasting model and the values assigned to the parameters of the forecasting model,

wherein the target variable is a measure of at least one of a value of an asset, a financial measure and an economic measure.

C¹
25. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~previously~~ first set of predicted values and the ~~currently~~ second set of predicted values for each of plural predictor variables are based on forecasts from a plurality of different individuals.

26. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein the ~~previously~~ first set of predicted values and the ~~currently~~ second set of predicted values for each of plural predictor variables are based on forecasts from a plurality of different individuals.

C²
27. (New) A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of engaging in an asset transaction based on the predicted value for the target variable,

said asset transaction comprising at least one of selling an asset and purchasing the asset.

28. (New) A method according to claim 15, wherein said identifying step is performed by using stepwise linear regression.

29. (New) A method according to claim 15, further comprising a step of engaging in an asset transaction based on the predicted value for the target variable, said asset transaction comprising at least one of selling an asset and purchasing the asset.